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MONTANANS EARN GLOBAL TRADE CERTIFICATES

MISSOULA –

More than 35 individuals from a diverse group of Montana and Northwest-region companies recently completed the Global Trade Certificate Program, which is offered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Small Business Administration and the Montana World Trade Center.

Experts presented sessions on topics such as international business trends, managing risk, banking, legal issues, documentation, negotiations and logistics.

"This group has become the core of the most knowledgeable people in the region on global trade," said Arnie Sherman, director of The University of Montana-based MWTC.

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer agreed. "Montana's on the move," he said. "The individuals certified through this program will help further grow Montana's economy with their new training on and knowledge of the issues surrounding global trade."

Program participant Kitch Walker, president of Ripple Marketing, which recently launched Flat Earth Imports, said, "The certification program is invaluable for new and growing businesses embracing the challenges and opportunities of doing business in an international business environment. The program greatly expands your global business

knowledge and skills. Plus, the certification program fosters and supports public and private sector relationships that will last well beyond the program's agenda."

The program was a three-part series held in **Bozeman, Missoula and Butte**. Those completing the full program will be listed as Certified Global Trade Professionals in a state directory available on the Governor's Office of Economic Development and MWTC Web sites (at <http://www.business.mt.gov> and <http://www.mwtc.org>, respectively).

Participants also received 40 hours of Continuing Professional Education credit or prorated hours for individual sessions completed. The Montana State Bar Association approved the course for nine hours of Continuing Legal Education credits.

The second series of training is slated to begin in April 2008. To learn more about the program or register for future sessions, call Nicole Hagerman at 406-243-5856.